

FESTIVALS OF INDIA

Calendar	Date	Festival name	Region / Communities / Religions
Solar	fixed, 13/14/15 April	Mesha Sankranti/Vaisakhi (Hindu Solar New Year)	Punjab, Haryana, Jammu, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nepalis (Sikkim, Darjeeling)
Solar	fixed, 13/14/15 April	Puthandu	Tamil Nadu
Solar	fixed, 13/14/15 April	Vishu	Kerala
Solar	fixed, 14/15 Apr	Buisu	Tripura
Solar	fixed, 13/14/15 Apr	Bwisagu	Bodoland, Assam
Solar	fixed, 13/14/15 April	Rongali/Bohag Bihu	Assam
Solar	fixed, 13/14 April	Pana Sankranti	Odisha
Solar	fixed, 14/15 April	Pahela Baishakh	West Bengal
Solar	fixed, 13/14/15 April	Jur Sital	Mithila
Solar	fixed, 13/14 Apr	Sangken	Arunachal Pradesh (Khamti, Singpho, Khamyang, Tangsa), Assam (Tai Phake, Tai Aiton, Turung)
Solar	fixed, 13/14 Apr	Bizhu	Chakma (Arunachal, Mizoram, Tripura, Assam)
Solar	varies, 17, 18, 19 Aug	Pateti	Parsis
Solar	fixed, 21 March	Nowruz	Zoroastrians

In Gujarat the next day after Diwali is celebrated as the first day of the Vikram Samvat calendar.

Calendar	Date	Festival name	Region / Communities / Religions
Lunar	varies, Mar/Apr	Ugadi	Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka
Lunar	varies, Mar/Apr	Gudhi Padwa	Maharashtra, Goa
Lunar	varies, Mar/Apr	Navreh	Kashmir
Lunar	varies, Jun/Jul	Ashadhi Bij	Kutch
Lunar	varies, Mar/Apr	Cheti Chand	Sindhi
Lunar	varies, Mar/Apr	Chaitra Navaratri (Hindu Lunar New Year)	Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand
Lunar	varies, Mar/Apr	Sajibu Cheiraoba	Manipur
Lunar	varies, Feb	Losar	Arunachal Pradesh (Monpa)
Lunar	varies, Feb/Mar	Gyalpo Lhosar	Sikkim (Sherpa)
Lunar	varies, Oct/Nov	Nutan Varsh or Bestu Varsh	Gujarat
Lunar	varies, Dec	Losoong/Namsoong	Sikkim (Bhutia, Lepcha)
Lunar	varies, Dec	Galdan Namchot	Ladakh
Lunar	varies, Dec/Jan	Tamu Lhosar	Sikkim (Gurung)
Lunar	varies, Jan/Feb	Sonam Lhosar	Sikkim (Tamang)

FESTIVALS OF LADAKH

Hemis Festival

- Hemis is the largest monastery (gumpa) located in Ladakh
- Hemis Festival is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Padmasambhava who is known as the founder of Tibetan Buddhism
- Celebrated for two days in the fifth month of the year, also called Tibetan lunar month
- Saka Dawa Festival/
Buddha Purnima or Vesak Day
 - Tak - Tok Festival

Dosmoche festival

- also known as the "Festival of Scapegoat"
- being celebrated for peace and prosperity in the coming Ladakhi new year
- Celebrated in February; 28th and 29th day of the 12th month of the Tibetan lunar calendar every year

Sindhu Darshan Festival

- held in Leh every year in June on the full moon day of Guru Purnima.

Nomadic Festival

- Ladakh Lieutenant Governor RK Mathur inaugurated a 2-Day Ladakh Nomadic Festival at Korzok Phu, Changthang region of eastern Ladakh.
- The festival is organised by Ladakh Cultural Academy in collaboration with Ladakh Tourism Department.
- It aims to highlight the distinctive culture of Changthang region.
- The Changthangi is a breed of cashmere goat native to Ladakh, reared by the nomads of the region for fine-grade Pashmina wool.



Name of Festival	Purpose	Organized by/date	Held at
The Losar Festival	Losar also known as Tibetan New Year, is a festival in Tibetan Buddhism.	The holiday is celebrated on various dates depending on location tradition.	Ladakh, H.P., Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim
Spitik Gustor Festival	It is a celebration of peace and prosperity. 'Thangka' painting of Je Tsongkhapa, the founder of the Gelugpa sect, which is put on display for the public.	30th & 31st January 2022	Leh and Ladakh Union Territory
1st Himalayan Film Festival 2021	To showcase the film making talent from all the Himalayan states and UTs	Organised by UT of Ladakh and Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra of Leh

FESTIVALS OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Tulip Festival

- Srinagar hosts the great Tulip Festival every year
- Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Kashmir is Asia's largest tulips garden.



Shikara Festival

- Celebrated once in a year on Dal Lake in Kashmir
- Kashmir's government began this festival in 2016.
- Shikaras are painted and dressed beautifully.
- Shikaras participate in Shikara Race, Dragon Boat Race and Canoe Polo Match.



Gurez festival

Aharbal Festival

- Kulgam district administration and the Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir organized the 1st ever Aharbal Festival at Kulgam, J&K to promote tourism in Kashmir, particularly at the Aharbal waterfall.
- Aharbal falls, also known as “Niagara Falls” of Kashmir, is a hill station in the southwestern part of Kashmir Valley in the Jammu and Kashmir.



Kanchoth Festival or Gauri Tritya	This festival is a symbol of ancient Nag Culture during the Shukla Paksha of Magh month which usually falls in January or February.	8th February 2022	Jammu and Kashmir
'Herath' Festival	The festival assumes colossal importance among the Kashmiri Pandit Community who celebrate it to mark the wedding of "Lord Shiva with Goddess Parvati".		Jammu and Kashmir

FESTIVALS OF HIMACHAL PRADESH

Kullu Dussehra

- One of the most significant festivals in Himachal Pradesh.
- Grand fair is organised in October in the Kullu valley.
- Fair commences on Vijaya Dashmi and continues for the next seven days



Losar

- Religious festival of Buddhists in Himachal Pradesh
- The new year according to the Tibetan calendar.
- Phagli
- To usher in spring from mid Jan onwards
- Worship of Shiv, Naga and goddess Hadimba

Halda

- One of the beautiful festivals in Himachal Pradesh closely resembles Diwali, the festival of lights.
- 2-day grand carnival celebrated in the secluded region of Lahaul valley.
- It is dedicated to Shiskar Apa, the Goddess of wealth.



Chaitraul Festival

- Celebrated in Sirmaur Area in the month of Chaitra on a bright fortnight of moon.
- Also known as festival of pictures - walls in the house are cleared, painted and decorated with figures of male animals and crops symbolising plenty.

FESTIVALS OF PUNJAB

Hola Mohalla

- An annual event at Anandpur Sahib that spans three days.
- Celebrations include displays of bravery and military prowess by the **Nihang Sikhs**.



Gurupurab

- A celebration related to the lives of the Sikh Gurus, typically their birth or death anniversary.
- A number of gurupurabs are observed through the year, with Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birth anniversary being amongst the major celebrations.

Baishakhi

- Also called Vaisakhi - marks the first day of the month of Vaisakha
- Marks the end of peak winter & beginning of Punjabi New Year, birth of the Khalsa
- A harvest festival of northern India



Lohri

- Marks the end of peak winter; celebrates the harvest of crops.
- It is a popular festival in Punjab and Jammu.

FESTIVALS OF HARYANA

Pinjore Heritage Festival

- a two-day winter festival held every year in the last week of December
- showcases exquisite cultural heritage of the state and region with cultural performances, dance and music competitions, craft bazar, food court and evening performances.



International Gita Mahotsava

- The weeklong festival is celebrated at Kurukshetra during November/December

FESTIVALS OF UTTARAKHAND

Phool Dei

- Is the harvest festival of Uttarakhand that is celebrated in the month of Chaitra (March-April) in the Hindu calendar.
- On this occasion, girls decorate their houses with flowers.

Harela

- in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand and some regions of Himachal Pradesh.
- celebrated thrice every year - during Chaitra Navratri (March-April), Sharad Navratri (September) and Shravan Harela, in the rainy season (July).

Kandali

- This unique festival coincides with the blooming of the kandali flower, which blooms once every 12 years (it last bloomed in 2011). Celebrated between August and October.
- **Anduri Utsav or the butter festival**
 - held in Raithal in Uttarkashi district every year to thank Lord Krishna for protecting cattle from evil forces while they were grazing in the open meadows
- **Bhitauli**
 - A festival dedicated to married women of the state
 - Bhitauli is celebrated in the month of March or April.
- **Egaas/Igas or Igas Diwali**
 - is celebrated 11 days after Diwali. Folklore says that the news of Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya from exile reached the hilly regions of Kumaon and Garhwal 11 days late.
- **Ghee Sankranti festival**
 - is held in August. Mostly celebrated in villages by farmers, it marks the harvesting season. Dishes are made with ghee (clarified butter).
- **Chhipla Jaat** is a festival that is celebrated in August, once in three years
- **Janopunya**
 - Celebrated along with Raksha Bandhan.
 - On this day, people change their janeu (sacred thread worn across the body by Hindu men).
 - **Hilljatra**
 - is associated with paddy transplantation, which is held during the rainy season.
- **Khatarua**

- A special festival of the pastoral and agricultural community in the Kumaon region observed in mid-September to mark the onset of autumn and winter.
- large quantities of fire-wood and dry grass are stacked at cross-roads or open grounds and bonfires are lit in the evening.

FESTIVALS OF UTTAR PRADESH

Ganga Festival, Varanasi : October- November.

KHICHDI

- Makar Sankranti is called Khichdi in Uttar Pradesh
- It is a harvest festival and involves ritual bathing.

Buddha Mahotsav, Shilpotsava, Kajari Mahotsav

<u>Banana Festival</u>	The state government had in 2018 organized the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme to promote traditional enterprise.	Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh
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FESTIVALS OF MADHYA PRADESH

Bhagoria Haat Festival

- Tribal Festival of Malwa Region
- Young girls and boys try to entice each other and if both like each other, then they put red powder on their partner's face.



Malwa Utsav

one of the biggest, largest and most spectacular events in **Madhya Pradesh**. Dance and music performances are the most integral part of the festival.



OTHER FESTIVALS

- Khajuraho Dance Festival
- Lokrang Festival
- Nagaji Fair
- Tansen Music Festival
- Pachmarhi Utsav
- Jal Mohotsav
- Bhagoria Haat Festival - by the Bhil tribe of Madhya Pradesh.

Mandu Festival

- The three-day famous “Mandu Festival” began at the historic town of Mandu in Dhar district of Madhya Pradesh on February 13, 2021.
- During the festival, the newly constructed Dino Adventure Park and Fossils Museum were inaugurated in Mandu. The Dinosaur Park is the first modern fossil park in India which has 24 eggs and other fossils of dinosaurs on display.



Name of Festival	Purpose	Date	Held at
97th World Sangeet Tansen festival	To celebrate Tansen	December 25 to December 30	Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh

FESTIVALS OF RAJASTHAN

Gangaur

- Celebrated by females and dedicated to Lord Shiva and Parvati as the symbol of love and successful marriage.

Rajasthan International Folk Festival

- An annual music and art festival organized to promote traditional folk music and arts held at Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

Bundi Festival - celebrated in the month of Kartik (Oct-Nov)

Summer Festival - Held in Mount Abu every year

Camel Festival: bBkaner

elephant Festival: Jaipur

- held on the day of Holi festival, usually in the month of March.
The festival features Elephant polo and Elephant Dance.

KITE FESTIVAL: Jaipur

MATSYA FESTIVAL - Alwar

Name of Festival	Purpose	Organized by/date	Held at
24th Lokrang 2021	To present the beauty of folk arts of their different regions	JKK, RUDA (Rural Non-Agriculture Development Agency), and Art and Culture Department	Jawahar Kala Kendra (JKK) in Jaipur, Rajasthan

The Maru Mahotsav or Jaisalmer Desert Festival	Theme: New Year, New Hope, New Celebration	13th to 16th Feb 2022	Jaisalmer, Rajasthan
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FESTIVALS OF GUJARAT

Uttrayan/International Kite Festival

- Celebrated around Makar Sankranti to mark the transit of Sun northwards from tropic of Capricorn to tropic of Cancer.

Rann Utsav – at Kutch

Uttarardh – Modhera Dance Utsav

Panch Mahotsav – at Panchmahal
NAVRATRI
Saputara Monsoon Festival

FESTIVALS OF MAHARASHTRA

Gudi Padwa - Maharashtrian New Year

Marabats and Badgyas (मराबात और बड़ज़स) – Nagpur – around Aug/Sept

- directly confront social evils and criticise their perpetrators through a procession with effigies
- Marabat and Badgyas are female and male representations respectively.
- In the evening a festival of toy bulls, called 'Tanha Pola', is celebrated by children.

Khandoba Festival/ Champa Shashthi

Six-day festival for worshipping Lord Shiva.
Prayers are offered to Khanderao or Khandoba
(incarnation of Lord Shiva).



FESTIVALS OF GOA

Feast of Saint Francis Xavier

- 3rd December marks the anniversary of St Francis Xavier's death, when thousands gather at the Basilica of Bom Jesus.
- This annual festival, known as the Feast of St Francis Xavier or Goinchea Saibache Fest, (Lord of Goa Festival), is the biggest of all the Christian festivals in Goa

Feast of Three Kings

- celebrated as an ode to the 'Our Lady of The Mount', a statue of Virgin Mary with infant Jesus in her hand, viewed to be the protector of the people.

Sao Joao Festival

- Celebrated on 24th June every year amongst the Catholic community and is dedicated to St. John the Baptist

SHIGMOTSAV/ Shigmo festival (a spring festival celebrated)

FESTIVALS OF BIHAR

Bihula – Eastern Bihar, mainly Bhagalpur

- People worship Devi Mansa for the welfare of their families.

Chhath Pooja

- Sun God, along with His wife Usha, is worshipped to thank them for bestowing life on Earth.

Madhushravani

- Mainly celebrated by the Maithil Brahmins of Bihar. It marks the arrival of Monsoon in the region.

JANAKI NAUMI / Sita Navami - birth anniversary of Goddess Sita.

FESTIVALS OF JHARKHAND

Hal Punhya

- begins with the fall of winter. The first day of Magh month, known as "Akhain Jatra" or "Hal Punhya", considered as the beginning of ploughing.

Rohini

- a festival of sowing seeds in the field. Farmers start sowing seeds from this day

Tusu Parab or Makar

- harvest festival held during the winter - celebrated in Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha.
- It is also for the unmarried girls.

Karam/ Karma

- vibrant youth festival in Jharkhand's tribal area.
- worship of Karam devta, the god of power, youth and youthfulness.

Sarhul

- main festival of the tribal population of Jharkhand. The verbal meaning of Sarhul is worship of the Sal tree.
- can also be redefined as worship of nature in which local people worship Sita as `Dhartimata`.

Bhagta Parab

- the tribal festival comes between spring and summer.
- Bhagta Parab is best known as the worship of Budha Baba.

Sohrai

- known for the care of domestic animals such as cows and buffaloes
- celebrated immediately after diwali, on the new moon day.

FESTIVALS OF CHATTISGARH

Bastar Dussehra

- It is the longest celebrated Dussehra in the world. It is celebrated for 75 days from August to October.

Madai festival

- by people belonging to the Gond Tribe

Bhagoriya Festival

- a festival of the Bhil tribe and is celebrated in the Jhabua district of Chhattisgarh.

OTHER FESTIVALS:

- Bhoramdeo Festival (last week of March)
- Chakradhar Festival



- Rajim Lochan Mahotsa
- Hareli
- First fruit Festival
- Earth Festival

Goncha Festival

- Also popularly known as the Chariot Festival
- celebrated at a time when Hindus celebrate Rath Yatra.
- Generally falls in the month of July



Pola Festival

- It is a festival of the state of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh which celebrated by the farmers by the worship of the bull.



Navakhana Festival

- Newly harvested rice is offered to the family deity on the 9th day (Navami) of Bhadrapad month.



Parcham Classes

National Tribal Dance Festival 2021

- Chhattisgarh has observed the annual 2nd National Tribal Dance Festival 2021 at Raipur's Science College ground as a part of the tourism development plan of the state. It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister (CM) of Jharkhand Hemant Soren and CM of Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel. The event was clubbed with Chattisgarh's Rajyotsava (state foundation day- November 1, 2021).



SAMPLE PYQ

_____ festival in the Bastar region is celebrated along with the worship of the local goddess, Kesharpal Kesharpalin Devi.

1. Phool Dei
2. Harela
3. **Madai**
4. Khatarua

FESTIVALS OF ODISHA

Jagannath Puri Rath Yatra

- It is also known as Gundicha Yatra, Chariot festival, Dasavatara or Navadina Yatra.
- The festival is dedicated to Lord Jagannath, his sister Subhadra and his elder brother Balabhadra.
- on the second day in bright fortnight of Aashaadha month, during June/July.



Chhau Festival

- Primarily attached to the Chhau dance of Mayurbhanj District.
- The festival usually happens in March/April.



Dhanu Yatra

- The largest open air theatre in the world
- This eleven-day long folk theatre is essentially based on Krishna Leela and Mathura Vijay.
- It falls in the month of Pousa(Dec/Jan) which is called Dhanu



Budi Thakurani Yatra

- The biennial Maa Budi Thakurani Yatra is held during the month of Chaitra (March /April) and is the main festival of Ganjam.

- The festival is celebrated with the concept that after her marriage, the Goddess returns to her paternal home



'Eco Retreat' festival

- A luxury camping festival

Raja PaRba

- Three days long festival at the onset of the rainy season.
- the first day is called Pahili Raja, second day is called Raja Sankanthi and third day is called Basi Raja.
- Raja Parba (festival) is also one of the few festivals in the country which celebrates menstruation and conveys the message of empowerment against the societal taboos.



NuAkhai Festival

- Nuakhai or Navkhana is the harvesting festival to welcome the new rice of the season.
- held in the months of August and September.

Baliyatra Festival (Boita Bandana ritual)

- The word Baliyatra literally means voyage to Bali.
- Each year during Kartik Purnima, particularly in Cuttack, people observe the ritual of 'Boita Bandana' by floating paper/cork boats, in ponds, rivers and other water bodies.
- The festival is the maritime tradition that is celebrated as a testament to the maritime trade history of Kalinga, traders and mariners known as sadhabas travelled on boitas (boats) to trade with distant island nations that share borders with the Bay of Bengal like Indonesia, Java, Sumatra and Bali.



FESTIVALS OF WEST BENGAL

Durga Pooja

- One of the oldest traditions of the Hindu community in Bengal, celebrated in the month of October.
- They worship Goddess Durga during the festival. Women put red powder on each other's faces.



'Dol Utsav' or 'Dol Jatra'

- In West Bengal & Odisha, Holi is known by the name of "Dol Jatra", "Dol Purnima" or the "Swing Festival".
- The festival is dedicated to Lord Krishna and Radha and celebrated on full moon day.
- It also marks the last festival of the year as per the Bengali calendar.



Other Festivals

Festival	Purpose/Theme	Organized by/date	Held at
'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujoyate'	To celebrate science and technology (S&T) and display the country's scientific legacy and technology prowess.	22nd to 28th Feb 2022	Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi
5th edition of Ganga Utsav 2021	To celebrate the glory of the river Ganga.	1st-3rd November 2021	Delhi
International Mango Festival	Two-day festival showcasing mangoes	July every year	Delhi